

SB 228 (DeSaulnier)
As Amended – January 25, 2010

COMPOSTABLE AND MARINE DEGRADABLE BAGS
Fact Sheet

SUMMARY

SB 228 will require plastic compostable bags that meet the state American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) standard D6400 to be “readily identifiable” as compostable. The purpose is to keep the bags from contaminating the recycling stream, and to keep virgin plastic bags from contaminating the composting stream.

BACKGROUND

The increase in participation and number of local governments establishing organics separation and composting has led to an increase in the use of compostable bags. Virgin plastic bags in the compost stream contaminate the compost leading to higher processing costs. Additionally, the regular curbside recycling programs will be contaminated if compostable bags are included in virgin plastic recycling streams.

This bill will require a compostable bag to be colored and labeled “compostable” so recyclers can remove them from the recycling stream, and allow operators of compost systems to remove non-colored bags from the compost stream.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATION

SB 1749 (Karnette, 2004) – Chaptered.
AB 2147 (Harman, 2007) – Died Assembly.
AB 1972 (DeSaulnier, 2008) – Chaptered.
AB 2071 (Karnette, 2008) – Chaptered.

THIS BILL

SB 228 requires compostable and marine degradable bags meeting ASTM D6400 to be readily and easily identifiable for the purposes of separating these bags from virgin plastic bags in recycling and composting streams. This will allow operators of compost systems to easily remove non-colored bags from the compost stream and avoiding contamination of the compost stream.

STATUS

February 11th – Asm. Natural Resources Committee

SUPPORT

- Biodegradable Products Institute (Sponsor)
- Californians Against Waste
- California Film Extruders and Converters Association
- Metabolix
- Heritage Bag Company
- Plastimin
- Department of the Environment, City and County of San Francisco

OPPOSITION

None on File.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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